

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 14

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

April 10, 2003

Left behind?

One Marine's view on wanting to be in the fight but supporting it from home.

Page 2

Month of Military Child

April is designated to recognize the children of service members.

Page 3

Pay scales

New general schedule and wage grade pay scales.

Pages 4 and 9

Ready, Front

Barstow Marine granted U.S. citizenship.

Page 6

Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>



<https://www.barstow.usmc.mil>



Photo by Pfc. Andy J. Hurt

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard bears the U.S. flag and Marine Corps colors at the San Diego Padre's Military Appreciation Day opening ceremonies April 3 at San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium.

Federal pay raise coming

By Fed News Online
www.fpmi.com

Most federal employees will see a larger 2003 pay increase this spring due to President Bush amending Executive Order 13282 to provide retroactive locality pay. The increase varies by locality from .9 to 1.7 percent and will be retroactive to Jan. 12.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service should make retroactive payments to Department of Defense civilians in April and May

See **PAY SCALE** Page 4

Marines' top enlisted man tosses out retirement plans, takes NATO job

By Sandra Jontz
STARS AND STRIPES staff

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael has made an about-face. The top enlisted man of the Marine Corps isn't retiring after all.

This summer, McMichael is moving to Brussels, Belgium, and will again work for Gen. James Jones, commander of the U.S. European Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander — this time in the newly created job of senior enlisted adviser to NATO, creating noncommissioned officer training programs for allied nations without one, he told Stars and Stripes March 25 in an exclusive interview.

McMichael, 51, will leave his current job June 26. It has not been decided yet when he'll start his new job, billeted for 36 months, though the orders he received three weeks ago say his start date will be no later than July 31.

"Gen. Jones and Gen. (Michael) Hagee, our commandant, both agreed this would be a great thing for our country," McMichael said. "What we want to do is help create the NCO corps, especially in the new countries that are coming into the NATO league ... helping them create that form of training ... (and) helping them establish that form of NCO corps within their

military."

Seven nations seeking to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization received invitations. They are Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

"I think the biggest challenge will be to tear down the walls that have been there longer than my presence, and to get people to see the value of what we're trying to bring to the table, of an NCO corps that it will not threaten the commissioned corps, it can only strengthen the organization."

McMichael, who has served under three commandants, would not say if Jones handpicked him for the job or if anyone else had been considered. Jones is traveling and was not available for comment.

Jones has the right guy for the mission, Hagee said.

"When Gen. Jones explained his concept to help some of the new NATO countries in developing a professional NCO corps, I knew Sgt. Maj. McMichael's leadership, professionalism and experience made him the ideal choice," Hagee said. "He's a tremendous sergeant major, a role model and contributed much to our Corps. This billet will allow him to continue to serve the country he loves so much."

Hagee has not named a successor for sergeant

major of the Corps. The list of candidates includes Sgt. Maj. John Mersino, command sergeant major of U.S. European Command; Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, sergeant major of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe; Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, sergeant major of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing; Sgt. Maj. William Kinney, sergeant major of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The creation of this new NATO job falls in line with shifts Jones, the Corps' former commandant, has tossed out since assuming his new role in mid-January.

"I would say this is Gen. Jones' vision to help these countries understand the effectiveness of NCOs and senior NCOs in the armed forces of America and how they can benefit their staff, which I think would be a great undertaking to go and try to instill a new culture, not only in a country, but also in a military that is basically foreign to this process," McMichael said.

McMichael said he "got a call from Gen. Jones a few weeks ago" — then last week got his orders to officially segue to a new life in Europe. "It's a great opportunity to do something, if the word 'special' is not too overblown, to do something special as well as different."

He speaks no language other than English, but

See **McMICHAEL** Page 4

Marine wrestles with conscience after being left behind

By Lance Cpl. Matthew Richards
THE SCOUT staff

While coverage of the front lines reaches an unprecedented level, and CNN becomes a virtual force in readiness, I cannot help but contrast the Marines deployed and those of us left behind.

I sit safely behind a desk, with an escalated workload, wearing three or four hats instead of one. There's no fear of bullets screaming over my head and no winds blowing down the walls of my barracks. I'm living comfortably in sunny Southern California, tucked safely into my bed at night while my fellow Marines overseas brave blinding sandstorms, fierce insects, wee-hour sentry duty and danger.

The contrast makes me restless as I try to sleep.

I'm not a vicious person, intent on vengeance or champing at the bit to personally administer justice. I don't like the idea of having bullets whiz over my head. But an unknown desire calls me to stand among my brethren on the front lines.

Casual conversations tell me many base — in other words, nondeployable — Marines share my dilemma about staying safely behind in this wonderful atmosphere while our comrades endure such sacrifice.

Logically speaking, there is no reason why I should feel troubled about where I am. But emotionally, I feel the call of the warrior, even as I finger a keyboard and shuffle papers in my workspace.

I love my job: designing the base newspaper so folks at home can stay abreast of what's going on here and on the front. At the same

time, I feel inappropriately perturbed.

Sometimes the feeling of security holds an uneasy sense in the heart of the determined.

Maybe that unease stems from my safety compared with the troops on the front, whose dreams are peppered with nostalgic dreams of spouses, children and friends left behind. Or maybe they suffer through nightmares about not returning home.

Thirty years from now, do you think they would trade places with me, to watch everyone around them leave for the front while they sit behind a desk?

For argument's sake, let's say I were to die at the ripe old age of 85, with an old wife, children and grandchildren. How would I feel holding the same title, "Marine," as a friend who died at 19 putting everything he had into

the idea of America?

I'm happy to produce the newspaper and would not be doing it if everyone had stayed behind. Traffic on base and at the Post Exchange isn't as congested as before, and it's nice going home to a warm bed and hot shower every night.

There's a pleasant thought: Let's trade glory, pride and a sense of worth for temporary convenience. Let's sell out our principles for a few perks.

War is nothing to be romanticized. Gen. William T. Sherman, after his gloriously sadistic campaign through Georgia in the Civil War, said, "War is hell." And in my eyes, he couldn't have depicted it more accurately.

Yet myriad names whispered quietly in the

See LEFT Page 10

Don't fall prey to cynicism

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



I used to think that cynicism was a modern invention at least until I read a short paragraph from the Christian Scriptures today. I hadn't really given it much thought, but even back then, about 2000 years ago, people were

cynical. I had naively believed that cynicism was only borne out of mistrust, but after my reading today I came to believe something different. The reading I am speaking of is from the Gospel of John chapter 9 : 18-41. It is the story of a man born blind who receives his sight through a miracle. The story is relevant for today because it seems to reflect attitudes that are strikingly similar to those displayed today.

The challenge of the story is that the man who had been the recipient of the miracle was under attack because the miracle didn't happen in the way that certain people expected or desired. Therefore, the miracle was suspect and open to interrogation. I was amazed at how

blind the people in the story were to the "good" aspect of what had happened. They were so focused on the fact that it did not happen in a way that they approved of that they could not really see that a man who had been completely dependant on others was now able to care for himself and had a new life because of the miracle.

It seems to me that sometimes we do that. Things happen all the time, all around us, that are good and we more often than not fail to recognize them for what they are, small miracles of life. It may sound silly but even something as simple as someone offering you the right of way when you are trying to pull out into heavy traffic is a miracle.

If you don't believe me just get into the I-15 northbound traffic lane on a Friday afternoon. When that happens I don't spend my next few minutes interrogating the driver's motives, picking apart all the reasons that they did it and why it was a bad thing. I merely accept it as gift, wave a thank you and keep driving.

The outcome of all this is that when I can put away my cynicism I can then share the good thing someone did for me with others. I can let the next car into the lane because it is

See CHAPLAIN Page 10

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Pfc Andy J. Hurt

Elsa Greenlee, a barber at the Base Barber Shop, cuts a customer's hair to military regulations. Greenlee has been working aboard MCLB for about a year. When asked about her favorite part of the job, Greenlee simply replied, "It's (the Marines), I think you're all really interesting."

Chapel Services

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.
Mass Sun. 10:30 a.m.

**Confession services
before Mass**

Catholic Rosary

First Saturday of
every month at
3 p.m. at the **Base Chapel**.
Call 577-6849
for more information.

Morning Prayer

Mon.-Fri. at 8:30 a.m.
at the **ASD Conference
Room, Building 15**.
Call 577-6849
for more information.



BARSTOW LOG
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Liz Bergman, Commanding Officer

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. John Cordero
Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson
Press Chief: Sgt. Cory Kelly

Editor: Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
Correspondent: Sgt. Joseph Lee
Correspondent: Pfc. Andy J. Hurt
Public Affairs Support Clerk: Bertie Dailey



The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer (B130), Command Headquarters, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Box 110100, Barstow, CA 92311-5001. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 15. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **BARSTOW LOG** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps. **BARSTOW LOG** is published by Aerotech News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Marine Corps, or Aerotech News, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

BARSTOW LOG is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. **BARSTOW LOG** is produced at Aerotech News and printed at Castle Printing in Bakersfield, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, Lancaster, Calif., phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon Thursdays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Month of the Military Child CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Compiled by
BARSTOW LOG staff

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Month of the Military Child.

To bring together these important events, Headquarters Marine Corps' theme is "helping children feel safe in uncertain times." Take great pride in setting aside the month to recognize the contributions and personal sacrifices children make to the Corps and help raise the awareness for the prevention of child abuse.

Marine Administrative message 118/03 stresses the importance of activities at installations and within units that creatively focus efforts to end the cycle of violence against children and develop programs that enrich them. The support of commanding officers, installation commanders, and officers in charge as well as the participation of all Marines and their

families is critical to the success of those efforts.

The effects of child abuse can last a lifetime. Children who are abused are more likely to become adults who abuse. In 2002 there were 714 substantiated cases of child abuse in the Marine Corps. This is the lowest number of substantiated cases in five years, which demonstrates that the Corps' prevention efforts are helping to reduce child maltreatment.

Child abuse affects the whole Marine community and needs to be addressed by the whole community.

Keeping children safe and developing appropriately is everyone's responsibility. Focus on child abuse prevention and the challenge faced by military children is not just for the month of April, but should be a year-round activity. Support programs and develop initiatives that will benefit military children now and in the future.

SMP Avengers game

The Single Marine Program is offering a trip to the Los Angeles Avengers Arena Football game Sunday at 3 p.m. The Avengers will be hosting the Arizona Rattlers at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Only 20 tickets are available, and transportation will be provided.

For more information contact Somer Meeden at 577-6812 or sign up at the Post Exchange.

Lifeguard training

A lifeguard certification course will be offered from Monday through April 18 from 8 a.m. to 4p.m. at the MCLB family pool.

Participants should bring a swimsuit

(one piece for females), towel, sunscreen and drinking water. The cost is \$16 and includes CPR for the professional rescuer and First Aid training. Participants must be at least 15 years of age.

For more information contact Jennifer Wales at 577-6817 or walesjm@barstow.usmc.mil.

Sorensen Field

It has come to the attention of Semper Fit staff that individuals have been observed utilizing Sorensen Field as a driving range.

This activity is not authorized — safety being part of the issue for both patrons utilizing the field and machinery used for upkeep.

MCCS offers a quality golf course

equipped with a practice range. Any questions can be directed to Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Daquila at 577-6543.

Pendleton Mud Run

Camp Pendleton is hosting the annual 10K (6.2 miles) Mud Run June 14. All interested personnel should forward their names to 1st Jason Lt. Kut by Monday. This is an individual and team event for Marines (2-5 people per team).

For more information or to sign up for the run contact Kut at 577-7611.

Special Olympics breakfast

The Barstow Special Olympics is having a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Barstow Fire Protection District Headquarters, 861 Barstow Rd.

A donation of \$2.50 is asked for the meal, and there will be plenty of food for all, as well as games, balloons and a drawing for prizes. For more information, contact Susan Sorensen at (760) 255-2787.

Base Easter Egg Hunt

The Base Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 18 at 9 a.m. at the playground at the end of Cape Gloucester.

The age groups will be 1-4, 5-9, and 10-13. The Base Chapel, in conjunction with PMO and MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division, sponsors this event.

For more information contact Sgt. David Meeden at 577-6514.

Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association Committee is having an Administrative Professional's Day luncheon April 23 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club. Tickets, costing \$7.50 each, should be purchased before April 17. The guest speaker is scheduled to be Kathryn M. Petermann of Fleet Support Division.



sion. For more information contact one of the following CWRA members:

Dan Keirn	577-6614
Fred Molino	577-7210
Bruce Rowe	577-7207
Cliff Ades	577-6431
Barbara Kulseth	577-6771
Ernie Hawkins	577-7046
Richard Tusing	577-6492
Ernest Garrett	577-6940
Wrayanne Huddleston	577-6506

CWRA Old Town trip

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association is sponsoring a trip to San Diego Old Town May 3. The CWRA will depart from MCLB at 7 a.m. and depart from Old Town at 7 p.m. A 7:30 a.m. stop at the International House of Pancakes in Victorville is also scheduled.

For more information contact CWRA committee member Dan Keirn at 577-6614.

Pilates classes

Semper Fit is offering a free Pilates classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-1130 a.m. in the aerobics room at the Base Gym.

For more information contact Jennifer Wales at 577-6817 or e-mail at walesjm@barstow.usmc.mil.

Chapel Services

The Marine Memorial Chapel will be open for those who wish to support the troops and families with prayers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The chapel will also offer a 20-minute Episcopal Mass at 11:10 a.m. each Thursday at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located inside the Marine Memorial Chapel. At the Yermo Annex, Holy Communion services are scheduled to be held in Building 598 every Tuesday at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Base Chapel at 577-6849.

Universal Studios

Universal Studios Hollywood is

offering free admission for active duty military, or spouses of deployed personnel, with the purchase of one full price adult admission until April 30.

To take advantage of this offer, present a military I.D. card at the box office.

Divers Wanted

A Diver's Club is being assembled on base to gather certified divers who are interested in going diving together.

All interested divers can submit their name, certification level and whether or not gear is owned to Michael Bonilla to receive e-mails covering a monthly calendar of dive events, when and where the group is meeting and, if need be, a carpool buddy.

Currently, the next beach dive is scheduled for Laguna Beach on Sunday, followed by a boat dive at Catalina April 27. Contact Michael Bonilla at 577-6668 or bonillama@barstow.usmc.mil.

Dart league

Semper Fit is searching for Enlisted and/or Oasis Club patrons interested in participating in a Dart League.

Positive feedback could lead to the league's implementation. All those interested please call Somer Meeden at 577-6812.

Car seat safety

The California Highway Patrol is scheduled to inspect car seats at Boll Field here April 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. CHP will determine if seats are properly installed and demonstrate how to properly install them.

If the car seats are not appropriate for a child's safety, CHP will give a new car seat for free.

Drivers who get their vehicle's car seats inspected will enter Boll Field from the Child Development Center side of the field and exit by the Base Commissary.

Contact Staff Sgt. James Daly at 577-6062 for more information.

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
7009	Code 530-ABM Equipment Cleaner	04-03-03	04-17-03	N/A	MCLB Barstow
	WG-7009-05 (Term NTE 366 Days)				

Applicants interested in announcements beginning with DEA or OTR should submit their résumé to:

HUMAN Resources Service Center, Southwest

ATTN: Code 522 (announcement number)

525 B Street, Suite 600

San Diego, CA 92101-4418

For more information concerning public job announcements visit the Self-Service Center, Building 236, Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office, 577-6357.

If you have Internet access, browse to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding Open Continuous Merit Promotion announcements point your browser to <http://www.donbr.navy.mil>.

This is not an official list. Please see the Web sites listed for a complete list.

McMICHAEL from
Page 1

plans to learn, he said. He'll likely tackle Danish first (since he studied it while stationed at the American Embassy in Denmark) followed by French, which is heavily spoken in Brussels. His wife, Rita, is excited about the new life they'll lead, he said.

McMichael said he isn't concerned that he has no predecessor from whom to learn. Being the first isn't new for the soft-spoken career Marine who enlisted Aug. 27, 1970.

McMichael was the first sergeant major to serve in Manpower and Reserve Affairs in 1996. Back then, "a lot of people didn't understand what the manpower sergeant major would do. Now they can't figure out how'd they do without.

"You needed someone to be involved with the everyday working parts and you needed someone to be the eyes and ears for the deputy commandant of Manpower and Reserve Affairs."

He said he wouldn't mind it if he's known as the education sergeant major.

"One of the most important

See **McMICHAEL**
Page 10

Salary Table 2003-LA

Annual Rates by Grade and Step

GS Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	17,908	18,506	19,102	19,694	20,291	20,642	21,228	21,821	21,846	22,401
2	20,135	20,613	21,281	21,846	22,091	22,740	23,390	24,040	24,690	25,339
3	21,969	22,702	23,434	24,166	24,898	25,630	26,362	27,094	27,827	28,559
4	24,663	25,484	26,306	27,127	27,949	28,771	29,592	30,414	31,236	32,057
5	27,594	28,513	29,432	30,352	31,271	32,190	33,109	34,029	34,948	35,867
6	30,758	31,783	32,808	33,833	34,859	35,844	36,909	37,934	38,960	39,985
7	34,179	35,319	36,458	37,598	38,737	39,877	41,016	42,155	43,295	44,434
8	37,853	39,115	40,377	41,639	42,901	44,162	45,424	46,686	47,948	49,210
9	41,809	43,203	44,597	45,990	47,384	48,778	50,172	51,565	52,959	54,353
10	46,042	47,577	49,112	50,647	52,182	53,717	55,252	56,787	58,322	59,857
11	50,587	52,274	53,961	55,647	57,334	59,021	60,708	62,395	64,081	65,768
12	60,630	62,651	64,672	66,693	68,714	70,735	72,757	74,778	76,799	78,820
13	72,099	74,502	76,906	79,309	81,713	84,117	86,520	88,924	91,328	93,731
14	85,200	88,040	90,880	93,721	96,561	99,401	102,242	105,082	107,922	110,763
15	100,218	103,559	106,900	110,240	113,581	116,921	120,262	123,603	126,943	130,284

PAY SCALE from
Page 1

based on information received from personnel systems.

Federal Wage System employees should receive their retroactive pay in their April 25 paychecks based on timely receipt of person-

nel records.

General Schedule and other covered employees should receive their retroactive pay no later than the May 23 paycheck, provided personnel actions are received by late April.

"Defense civilians are an important part of the team that defends America," said Pat Shine, director

of Military Civilian Pay Services for DFAS.

"When changes that affect their pay occur, the Defense Finance and Accounting team is proud of keeping our customers informed and delivering the dollars to families quickly and accurately."

DFAS is the world's largest fi-

nance and accounting operation.

In fiscal year 2002, DFAS paid 5.7 million people, processed more than 11.2 million contractor invoices, made 7.3 million travel payments and disbursed more than \$346.6 billion, while reducing overall costs to customers by \$144 million.



Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon

Marines from Combat Engineer Platoon, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), place explosives on a Ba'ath Party Regime symbol outside the Qalatsukar secret police station in an effort to destroy all symbols of Saddam Hussein and eliminate the Ba'ath Party presence in the town.

24th MEU (SOC) Marines eliminate Ba'ath Party presence in Qalatsukar

By Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon
Editor

QALATSUKAR, Iraq – Songs of joy saying "U.S. Stay" and "this is the end of the suffering" rang out from the people of Qalatsukar Iraq Monday afternoon as Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) rid the town of Ba'ath Party presence.

Earlier that morning, Marines from the 24th MEU rolled into the center of town with the mission to destroy all symbols of Saddam Hussein and his Ba'ath Party Regime.

With Marines from Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines, providing security, Marines from Combat Engineer Platoon and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team went to work tearing down any pictures of Saddam Hussein and setting them on fire. They searched the town's Secret Police Station, seizing intelligence items and miscellaneous ordnance, and destroyed some Anti-Aircraft Artillery located at the town's Ba'ath Party headquarters. They also removed some weapons and a large amount of ammunition from the headquarters.

"Our mission was to go in and remove any evidence of Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party Regime," said Gunnery Sgt. James L. Clements, Command Element, 24th MEU (SOC). "We also demonstrated to the local populous that the coalition is here to liberate them from Ba'ath Party control."

When the Marines entered the town, they encountered no resistance and found the targeted buildings empty. One of the pictures was already defaced before the Marines got to it.

See QALATSUKAR Page 10

TSP Open season begins Tuesday

Compiled by
BARSTOW LOG staff

The next Thrift Savings Plan open season begins Tuesday and ends June 30 for both military and civilian employees; a change previous open season dates.

During the open season, persons wishing to participate may begin contributing to the TSP and those currently enrolled can change the amount of their contribution. Contribution limits set during this time are 13 percent for employees under the Federal Employees' Retirement System and 8 percent for those under the Civil Service Retirement System. Military personnel can contribute up to 8 percent of their basic pay. These limits become effective in June.

The TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan for both Federal employees and military personnel, according to the TSP Web site.

For civilian employees the retirement income individuals receive from their account will depend upon how much they, and the agency if they are FERS employees, have contributed to the account during their working years and the earnings on those contributions. In principal, the same applies to CSRS employees - the difference being that the CSRS employee does not receive agency contributions.

TSP contribution elections can only be made through either the Employee Benefits Information System on the Internet or through the Ben-

See TSP Page 10

READY, FRONT

Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow



Sgt. Marinmiramontes (second from left), floor supervisor for 2nd Organic Maintenance Platoon, stands next to fellow service members to receive his United States citizenship March 28.

Marine's citizenship expedited

Barstow Marine becomes U.S. citizen

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

To be a U.S. Marine may, to some, be the epitome of a true American.

There may be no greater demonstration of patriotism and love of country than to volunteer your life to a service that protects its homeland's rights and freedoms by putting its members in harm's way. Yet there are men and women in the Corps today, who may be called on to fight if needed, that cannot legally claim to be Americans.

These Marines cannot gain elevated security clearance, become officers or vote, but they can all be deployed to the front lines to potentially die for this country.

Sgt. Mario A. Marinmiramontes, floor supervisor for 2nd Organic Maintenance Platoon at the Yermo Annex, recently gained all these rights with his citizenship after serving nearly six years as an artillery mechanic in the Marine Corps.

Marinmiramontes, known around base as Sgt. Marin because of his lengthy combined last name, had a comfortable upbringing in the small town of Jalisco, Mexico, with his

mother, father and three siblings. Marin's father provided the family lifestyle by traveling annually to Northern California for approximately three months to earn more than enough money for the family to live on for the rest of the year.

When Marin's father grew tired of making the long commute to and from home every year, he gathered his family and moved them to Arizona. Marin was enrolled in school in Arizona at 11 years old, and continued on to an aeronautical mechanic's trade school at 19, when a Marine Corps Recruiter contacted him.

"I was looking for a job and waiting for my green card to come in at the time when the recruiter called. I only had a work permit at the time and really didn't know the difference between the Army, Air Force and Marines," said Marin. "I hadn't ever considered the military before, and my father didn't like the choice I made to join. He wanted me to stay in aeronautics because he was sure that was what I was good at."

Once an immigrant attains a "green card," or permanent residence certificate, there is a requirement of time that person must live in country before an application for naturalization can be submitted, according to the U.S.A. Immigration Services Web site. This time period is waived for all immigrants who serve honorably in the United States Armed Services for a period of three or more years, and modified for

people who get married to born citizens.

When Marin had served his three years, he started the paperwork necessary to begin the naturalization process through the military administration offices where he was stationed.

"I started the application through my S-1, and they said that it was submitted and I'd have to wait for a reply," said Marin. "The problem was, I moved from my unit and came here to Barstow and I had still not heard anything back from immigration. I contacted them several times. Two years had passed, and every time I called I was told that the application was being processed. It seemed to me like an awful long time to process an application. I thought the administration offices must have made some kind of mistake on my paperwork or something, and maybe it was held up now because of that."

Unfortunately for Marin and many other applicants for naturalization, the process of paperwork can take an exceedingly long time; however, in July 2002, the president issued an executive order to expedite naturalization applications for active duty service members who are serving during the war on terrorism, much like many presidents before him have done in times of conflict.

When an e-mail started circulating around the base about expediting

Computing cutting scores the right way

To compute cutting scores, follow the instructions in the table below.

Cutting scores for different occupational specialties are available at <http://www.usmc.mil>. If the composite score meets or exceeds the cutting score, congratulations. If not, Marines can check with the career planner to see where improvements can be made.

Rifle

240-250 or 57-65 = 5.0
235-239 or 53-56 = 4.9
230-234 or 49-52 = 4.8
225-229 or 45-48 = 4.7
220-224 or 40-44 = 4.6
215-219 or 38-39 = 4.4
210-214 or 35-37 = 4.2
205-209 or 33-34 = 3.8
200-204 or 30-32 = 3.6
195-199 or 28-29 = 3.4
190-194 or 25-27 = 3.0
189-under or 1-24 = 0.0

- Line 1 – Rifle score (from conversion chart)
- Line 2 – PFT score (from conversion chart)
- Line 3 – Subtotal (add lines 1 and 2)
- Line 4 – GMP average (line 3 divided by 2)
- Line 5 – GMP score from line 4 x 100
- Line 6 – Average proficiency marks x 100
- Line 7 – Average conduct marks x 100
- Line 8 – Time in grade (months) x 5
- Line 9 – Time in service (months) x 2
- Line 10 – DI/Recruiters/MSG/Bonus x 1
- Line 11 – MCI x 15 and college courses x 10 (totaling no more than 75)
- Line 12 – Command recruiting bonus x 1
- Line 13 – Total composite score (add lines 5-12)

Physical Fitness Test

(Ages 17-26)	(Ages 27 and up)
280-300 – 5.0	280-300 – 5.0
270-279 – 4.9	270-279 – 4.9
260-269 – 4.8	260-269 – 4.8
250-259 – 4.7	250-259 – 4.7
240-249 – 4.6	240-249 – 4.6
225-239 – 4.5	225-239 – 4.5
215-224 – 4.4	215-224 – 4.4
205-214 – 4.3	205-214 – 4.3
195-204 – 4.2	195-204 – 4.2
185-194 – 4.1	185-194 – 4.1
175-184 – 4.0	175-184 – 4.0
170-174 – 3.9	170-174 – 3.9
160-169 – 3.8	160-169 – 3.8
150-159 – 3.7	150-159 – 3.7
140-149 – 3.6	140-149 – 3.6
135-139 – 3.5	135-139 – 3.5
134-under – 0.0	110-134 – 3.0
	109-under – 0.0

See CITIZEN Page 9

Battalion Commander: Maj. Clarence T. Guthrie III

Battalion First Sergeant: 1st Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda

FSD getting vehicles ready to go

Story and photos by Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Fleet Support Division at Yermo has been hard at work de-preserving the first 14 HMMWVs for activation in operation Iraqi Freedom as soon as they are made serviceable.

These vehicles that have been sitting on a desert lot, some for over 5 years, can be de-preserved and ready for shipment in a matter of weeks. The desert climate of

MCLB Barstow makes the lots at Yermo ideal for outside storage of the Marine Corps' vehicles and equipment.

The process of preserving the vehicles for storage includes a basic inspection for serviceability and classification, as well as protection of inner-motor working parts and the exterior lights and glass. Once the vehicles are prepared for storage, they sit until needed in the Marine forces.

De-preserving the vehicles includes removing the protective tape and wrappings around exterior lights and glass, as well as a thorough cleaning, rejuvenation of the engine and transmission, inspection for all working parts to include repairing anything damaged, and finally repainting the final repaired product before it is shipped overseas.

When shipped, the HMMWVs resemble brand new machines ready for combat.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

Don Hamblet Jr., heavy mobile equipment mechanic for "Strip 8," Fleet Support Division, repairs dry rotted rubber window moldings in a deploying M998 HMMWV. The vehicles that have been sitting in the desert for years only need minor refurbishing before being transferred to operational forces.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

The M998 HMMWVs are thoroughly cleaned out to remove any sand that has gathered in the smallest crevasses of the truck from years of sitting in the desert lots.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

The mounting bracket for this fuel gauge is broken, possibly occurring while in storage. Before passing this vehicle through, the bracket must be fixed or replaced by the Fleet Support Division personnel to make the vehicle serviceable.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

April Sale ends Tuesday

The April sale at the Super Seven Day Store and the Railhead Exchange ends Tuesday.

There is still time to take advantage of the sales on everything from kitchen and grill ware to electronics. In the kitchen get a 2-slice bagel toaster, 5-speed electric hand mixer, citrus juicer, tall can opener, food chopper, or steam iron for \$6.99 each. Bulk up the backyard with a

barbecue-in-a-box, barbecue grill, one bag of charcoal and a 3-piece tool set for \$14.99.

Then bring the savings into the den with a Hoover upright vacuum cleaner for \$99.99 and Pioneer Home Theater System for \$249.99.

Electronics sale

Starting Wednesday, a number of electronics will go on sale, with ticketed prices slashed by 50 percent. Choose from VCRs, DVDs, TVs and many other items (all sale items are sold as-is, no refunds).

Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated, the lunch menu for the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe are the same.

Lunch menus subject to change.

Today – Baked pork chops.

Friday – Baked rainbow trout.

Monday – Cornish game hen.

Tuesday – Turkey a-la-king.

Wednesday – 6" french dip.

Thursday – Yaki soba.

Family Night Dining

Tonight – Barbecued beef short ribs, collard greens, black-eyed peas, tossed green salad, corn bread, fountain drink of your choice and dessert.

Baby classes

The Youth Activities Center will hold two classes next week for new or expecting parents.

There will be an infant massage class Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the YAC classroom. Guests are invited to bring their babies and join in an instructive and fun class. Call 577-6332 to register.

A car safety class focusing on baby safety is scheduled for April 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the YAC classroom. Call 577-6533 to register.

Art and essay contest

The Personal Services Division is having two contests for children of military families and those of Base Library patrons – an art contest and an essay contest.

The PSD contests are themed "Patriotism." Art contest submissions can be drawn with crayons, watercolors, sketches, oils, pastels, etc., and essay contest submissions should be roughly 750 word compositions.

Submissions should be turned in the week of April 14 to 19 to the Base Library. Submissions should not exceed 8-1/2 x 11 paper size. There will be first, second and third place prizes awarded. For more information call 577-6395.

Reading to Gilroy

On April 15 and 17, children from the Child Development Center and children from base housing are invited to

read to Gilroy, a "lovable" Labrador Retriever who loves books of all types, but is especially fond of books about animals.

On both days, CDC children are invited to read from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and children from base housing are invited to read from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Children 5 to 12 years are invited to participate.

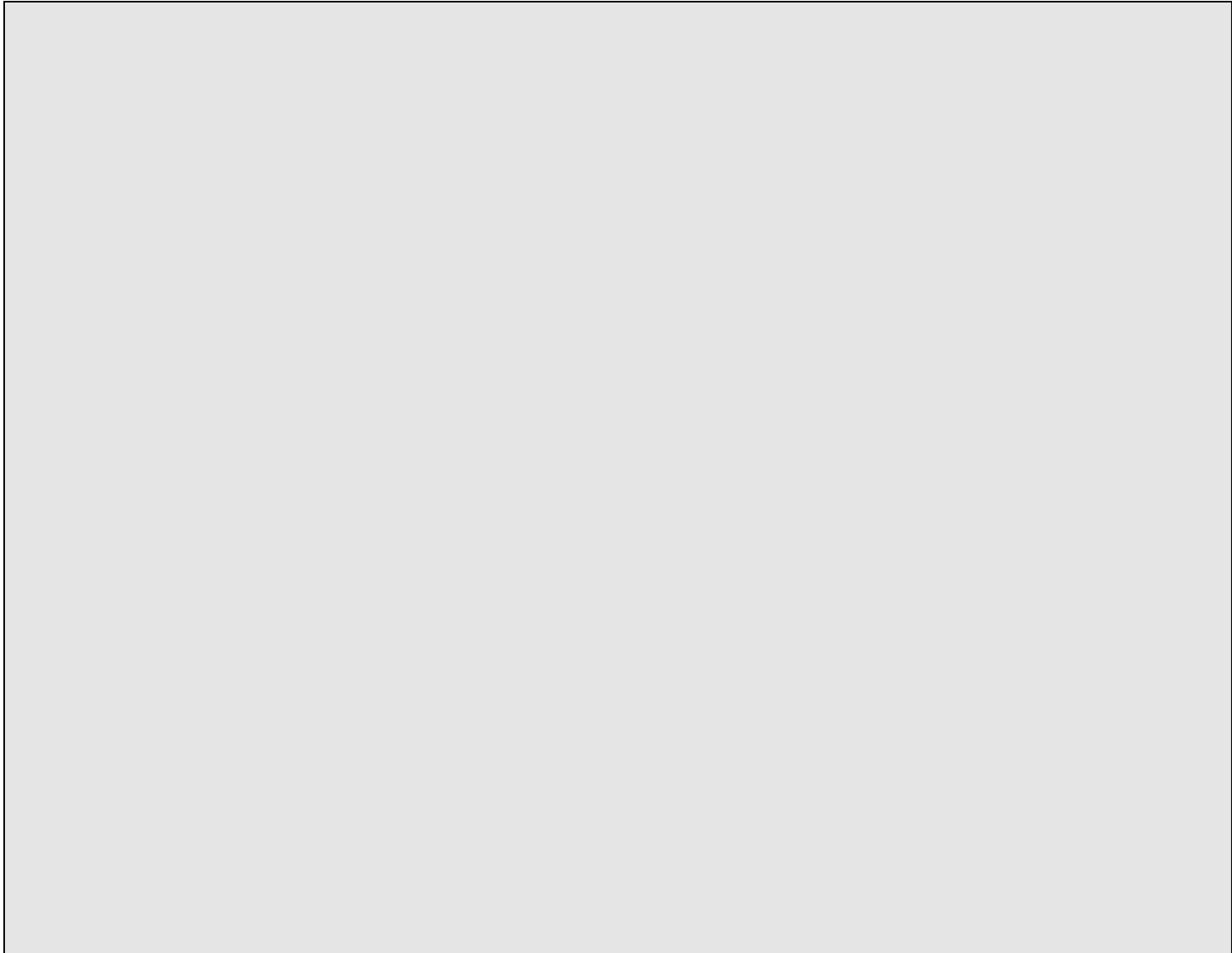
Parents can call the Base Library at 577-6395 to schedule time for their children to read to Gilroy.

YAC trip to Knottsherry Farm

Youth Activities Center has a trip to Knottsherry Farm scheduled for Tuesday. The cost is for \$23 adults and for \$11.50 children. For more details or to reserve a seat call 577-6499.

Aerobic class cancelled

Gina Galbraith's Aerobic Class has been cancelled until further notice. Stephanie Jeffery's Aerobic Class is still in progress 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the Base Gym. Call 577-6817 for more.



Wage Grade Pay Scale

WG																									
WD-WN																									
WL-WS																									
Grade	WG-Rates					WL-Rates					WS-WD-WN Rates					Pay Level									
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5										
1	8.74	9.10	9.46	9.83	10.19	9.61	10.01	10.41	10.81	11.21	14.74	15.35	15.96	16.58	17.19										
2	9.98	10.40	10.82	11.23	11.65	10.98	11.44	11.90	12.36	12.81	15.98	16.65	17.32	17.98	18.65										
3	11.23	11.70	12.17	12.64	13.10	12.36	12.87	13.38	13.90	14.41	17.23	17.95	18.67	19.39	20.10	1									
4	12.48	13.00	13.52	14.04	14.56	13.73	14.30	14.87	15.44	16.02	18.48	19.25	20.02	20.79	21.56	2									
5	13.74	14.31	14.88	15.45	16.03	15.11	15.74	16.37	17.00	17.63	19.74	20.56	21.38	22.20	23.03	3									
6	14.99	15.61	16.23	16.86	17.48	16.48	17.17	17.86	18.54	19.23	20.96	21.83	22.70	23.58	24.46	4									
7	16.19	16.87	17.56	18.23	18.91	17.83	18.56	19.30	20.05	20.79	22.10	23.02	23.93	24.85	25.78	5 1									
8	17.34	18.07	18.79	19.50	20.23	19.07	19.88	20.66	21.46	22.25	23.25	24.21	25.17	26.15	27.12	6 2									
9	18.48	19.24	20.01	20.79	21.56	20.33	21.18	22.03	22.87	23.73	24.37	25.38	26.42	27.42	28.44	7 3									
10	19.63	20.44	21.25	22.07	22.89	21.58	22.47	23.37	24.29	25.19	25.52	26.57	27.65	28.70	29.77	8 4									
11	20.69	21.57	22.41	23.28	24.16	22.78	23.74	24.71	25.66	26.58	26.00	27.08	28.18	29.25	30.35	9 5									
12	21.49	22.39	23.27	24.16	25.07	23.65	24.65	25.63	26.65	27.61	26.65	27.75	28.87	29.98	31.09	10 6									
13	22.28	23.26	24.16	25.09	26.02	24.54	25.57	26.58	27.62	28.65	27.45	28.60	29.74	30.89	32.04	11 7									
14	23.06	24.03	24.98	25.94	26.92	25.32	26.40	27.45	28.53	29.59	28.40	29.58	30.76	31.95	33.12	8									
15	23.87	24.83	25.84	26.90	27.87	26.24	27.36	28.41	29.55	30.63	29.38	30.60	31.82	33.05	34.27	9									
									WS-16		30.46	31.73	33.00	34.27	35.54										
									WS-17		31.66	32.98	34.30	35.62	36.94										
									WS-18		32.99	34.36	35.73	37.11	38.48										
									WS-19		34.44	35.88	37.32	38.75	40.19										

DRMO recycles excess waste for gov't

Submitted by
Environmental Division

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office Barstow's mission is to dispose of excess property for the Department of Defense through reutilization to DOD activities, transfer to federal agencies and donation to eligible organizations and special programs.

Its area of responsibility includes MCLB Barstow, Ft Irwin, Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms and Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

During fiscal year 2002 \$177 million in excess property was received for disposal at DRMO Barstow from military activities.

Through the Reutilization, Transfer, Donation Program, \$52 million of this excess was "reutilized" or reused by DOD commands, \$1.4 million of surplus property was donated to the State of California State Agency for Surplus property and other eligible donees within the continental United States.

This is property that was reused saving millions of procurement money for DOD, federal agencies and eligible donors.

Additionally, DRMO sold about 3.6 million pounds of scrap material generating approximately \$109,255 in proceeds back to the U.S. Treasury.

Excess usable property is reviewed upon receipt to identify any special handling requirements that may apply. After this is accomplished the property is stored in the DRMO's screening areas and made available for screening by DOD, Federal Agencies and eligible donation agencies for further reuse at

no cost.

Information regarding this property is available in the DRMO's Web site for electronic screening or review for use to meet mission requirements.

The system allows electronic requisitioning by DOD commands and in most cases the property is shipped free of charge.

Only after all efforts have been exhausted for the reuse/recycling is the property turned over to the DRMO's commercial venture for sale as surplus to the general public. This partnership returns 80 percent of the proceeds to the U.S. Government after the partner deducts operating expenses.

To coordinate disposal of excess property (other than hazardous property) arrangements may be made by contacting the DRMO at 577-6563/6651/6562.

The required documentation for turn-in of excess property to the DRMO is form DD1348-1A.

Technical assistance from the DRMO is also available to assist commands in the preparation of turn-in documents and proper segregation of scrap material to obtain maximum revenues.

Keeping the environment in mind, DRMO manages the disposal of hazardous property for DOD activities maximizing the use of each item and minimizing environmental risks and costs.

In FY 02, DRMO disposed of millions of pounds of hazardous property in approved facilities using its ultimate disposal contract.

To arrange for disposal of hazardous property, pre-inspection is required to ensure that all applicable laws and regulations are

complied with prior to acceptance.

Assistance regarding disposal of hazardous property may be made by contacting the DRMO Environmental Support Branch at 577-6694/6683.

Review of the hazardous property for proper description, Material Safety Data sheets, required profile sheets, analysis, proper shipping name, proper packaging are but a few of the information reviewed for compliance prior to turn-in.

Non-compliant turn-ins are rejected until all required information is provided by the generating activity. The DRMO is the command's environmental steward and is very diligent in protecting its interests by eliminating the risks associated with handling and disposal of hazardous property to prevent notices of violations.

Recovery of precious metals from items such as circuit cards and other precious metal bearing property is also a special program that DRMO manages in its goal to conserve resources.

The recovered precious metal is made available as Government Furnished Material to U.S. government contracts reducing costs for DOD.

The DRMO serves as a clearinghouse for DOD activities with its objective to conserve resources, reduce costs and protect the environment.

Additional information on the variety of services and special programs provided by the DRMO can be obtained by logging on to its Web site at <http://www.dla.mil/drms>.

To obtain sales information for property available to the general public, customers may log on to <http://www.govliquidation.com>.

CITIZEN from Page 6

naturalization applications, it didn't take long for the MCLB Barstow administration personnel to identify Marin and discover that he has had an application processing in immigration for a considerable amount of time.

"All of a sudden things just started happening," said Marin. "I got the approval back and they set a date for me to be sworn in. I had been waiting for this moment for such a long time, and now it all seemed to be happening at once."

Marin received his citizenship on March 28, 2003, and as the first member of his immediate family to have citizenship in the United States, he feels overwhelmed with new plans for his future.

"I have always wanted to explore other options in my career, but I was held back because I was not a U.S. citizen," said Marin. "There are a lot of things noncitizens can't do in the military."

Marin tried to make a lateral move to become a computer repairman during his first few years in, but could not make the move due to his lack of citizenship.

"I might try to make another lateral move, but right now I'm trying to finish college too so I can put in for a warrant officer program," said Marin. "There are just so many different things I can do now that I couldn't do before, like vote. I always wanted to be able to vote, and now I finally can. I am going to get started on some of my real goals in my career, but I don't really know where to start."

LEFT from Page 2

tranquil winds that shuffle the sands of Iwo Jima hold infinite weight in the souls of those who realize their sacrifice. I see what they have done for their country and cannot help but feel awestruck.

I also am a Marine.
I didn't choose to be a base Marine. The Corps chose where I am, and someone has to stay behind to support those deployed. Everyone does a part in the mission.

But the Marines I worked with, trained with, suffered with and learned from are on the front lines as I type and as you read. My instincts tell me I should be there shoulder to shoulder with them.

Don't get me wrong: I don't want to give my life for my country the

first chance I get. But I love my country and will defend it if called upon. Not that my life now is without sacrifice, just like everyone who has ever worn this uniform.

Being a Marine is about the sacrifices we make for our country. Sure, the "hoorahs" and the "Semper Paratus" sound great and can be motivating, but if you ask all Marines, deployable and nondeployable, what was the one thing they did that etched their name in the history of mankind – they would say, without a doubt, "sacrifice."

I can say I have a part in another war for the American way of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And for all those who disagree, shout anti-war slogans and demand world peace, what do they think we do this for?

So we can suffer while sacrificing and killing our fellow man for our own enjoyment?

Take a step back and think about what this country was built upon and why. Countless American lives were sacrificed to preserve your right to protest and speak your mind. Today, countless more are just as committed as the ones before.

So I'll sit here behind my desk defending my country with my pen while others defend it with their lives. I have a part, and it's one that my mother is probably much happier I have.

Editor's Note:

Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Richards is the editor of THE SCOUT, Camp Pendleton's weekly newspaper.

QALATSUKAR from Page 5

"I think the operation went well," said Clements. "Many of the people were passing out flowers to the Marines and thanking them for the work they did. They were very supportive."

One key element of keeping the local people under control were the soldiers of the 312th Psychological Operations Company, 2nd psychological operations Group, attached the 24th MEU (SOC).

"The Psy Ops guys played a message that told the people not to interfere with the Marines and that they

were not there to harm them," said Clements.

Evidence of the mission's success was apparent as the Marines were driving away. More than 1,000 people from all parts of the town were rushing to the edge of the secure area, waving at the Marines and giving them the thumbs up. They were also chanting, singing and thanking them.

"I think an operation like this opens the door for additional operations, like civil affairs projects," said Clements. This may include setting up medical and dental clinics for village residents, and providing fresh water.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

the courteous thing to do.

So you see, cynicism is not new and neither is the answer to it. Take things for what they are worth.

Don't fall prey to the idea that everyone is out for themselves, rather try and believe that people care about other people.

Yes, that is a costly way to live and a person may find out that not everyone is good, but the cost of living a life filled with cynicism is far more costly than that.

Peace,
Fr Randel

McMICHAEL from Page 4

things we do is to educate. After safety, education is the most important thing that got me going every day.

"My goals ... have been education of the military member, education for the spouse, the right education for the children and joint education for the service."

The last refers to learning the ins and outs of other services. "Our way is not the only way. We are not the only service. We're a great military country and we'll be fighting the fight with combined forces."

Rarely does the sergeant major of the Corps continue his military career upon leaving the post.

This new job beckoned. "It was very difficult for me to say no." So he didn't.

TSP from Page 5

efits Line using a touch-tone telephone for civilian employees. EBIS allows employees to access general and personal benefit information and conduct electronic transactions anytime using a desktop computer. To access EBIS visit the Department of the Navy Civilian Benefits Information Center Web site at <http://www.civilianbenefits.broc.navy.mil/> or <http://www.donbr.navy.mil/>.

Marines can log on to <http://www.mypaydfas.mil/> or see Chief War-rant Officer Joseph Charles in the Military Personnel Office for more information.

1999 FORD MUSTANG: 35TH anniversary Automatic, V6, all power, AM/FM cassette with CD player, c/c, keyless entry, xlt. cond., asking \$10,000 OBO, 71K miles. Call 253-3237, ask for Jr.

MISCELLANEOUS: Full size stroller with removable carrier, like new, \$50; Play and Go playpen, \$15. Call 256-4873 (8-5 Lynda) or 253-2677 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: New, top-of-the-line car stereo system, 8100D MTX, 2 solar barics L5.15, paid \$1,700, asking \$1,000. Call 252-0399, ask for Jason.

MISCELLANEOUS: JVC 12 CD Changer (FM Modulator) with wireless remote, like new, \$165 OBO; Logic HP Bandpass Box with 10" punch XLC subwoofer, xlt. cond., \$100 OBO; Bazooka Bass Tube, model EI 804, xlt. cond., \$75 OBO. Call 252-1502, lv msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: 19" RCA color television, \$50 OBO; large bird cage, \$40 OBO; 20" lawn mower w/bag, \$60 OBO; 6-ton jack stand set, \$15 OBO; mechanic's creeper, \$12 OBO; Yamaha porta-sound keyboard, \$45 OBO. Call 252-4787 or 447-2771.

MISCELLANEOUS: Baby items, entertainer center, \$35 OBO; intercom set, \$20 OBO; rocking cradle w/bedding, \$65 OBO; large stroller \$80, OBO; small stroller, \$35 OBO; swing set, \$35 OBO; blues blue blanket (twin size) w/drapes and sheets, \$45 OBO. Call 252-4787 or 447-2771.

MISCELLANEOUS: EZ Up Dome Tent 8x12 nearly new, \$100; Mizuno baseball glove MPM 1251, 12 ½ inches, xlt. cond., \$35; tires LT 215-85-R16, \$20, P185-70-R14, \$15, and P175-70-R13, \$10. Call 252-6629.

MISCELLANEOUS: Children's computer desk with file cabinet and chair, \$40 OBO. Call 256-1914.

MISCELLANEOUS: Truck cap for full size truck, white with windows has lock and key, \$150 OBO. Call 252-2205.

MISCELLANEOUS: Day bed, white, brand new mattress, all decorative bedding included, \$125. Call 256-4873 (8-5).

MISCELLANEOUS: Proform ESP 10 extended stride treadmill, 10 MPH programmable speed, power incline, 1.5 HP DC motor, adjustable suspension deck, xlt. cond., \$125. Call 253-2394 AWH.

Ad Placement

Non-business BARSTOW LOG Classified Ads are free for base employees and active or retired service members and their family members. Non-business ads may be submitted to:

editor@barstow.usmc.mil

To place business-related adds call:

Aerotech News and Review
(661) 945-5634

